

Background:

The Project Development Committee will discuss project ideas to implement the current TCDD State Plan. The enclosed documents provide information to assist with that discussion:

- **State Plan Projects List** — The FY 2017 – FY 2021 State Plan requires specific projects to be implemented. This list is inclusive of projects that must be developed to address goals and objectives in the plan, and provides the current status of projects already addressed.
- **Idea Discussion Guide** — Contains a list of questions for discussion when considering a new project idea or the sustainability of completed projects
- **Executive Summaries** — TCDD staff prepared executive summaries for the following proposed projects that meet state plan requirements:
 1. Local Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
 2. DD Network Partners Collaborative Project

The Committee will discuss the outcomes of the recently completed Health and Fitness Projects. A summary of those projects is included to assist with that discussion — [Health and Fitness Projects](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Cordry, Planning Director at (512) 437-5410 or joanna.cordry@tcdd.texas.gov.

Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 8**Expected Action:**

The Project Development Committee will consider the Executive Summary and may recommend Council approval for funding.

Council — Agenda Item 5. A. – B.**Expected Action:**

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

State Plan Projects List Report May 2017

The following tables list State Plan Objectives for which projects remain to be implemented.

Projects Currently in Development

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.3	Develop at least five new programs that successfully support individuals with developmental disabilities to be included in post-secondary education.	Three almost completed; a project to create at least two more programs new programs has started.
1.4	Pilot at least one model that provides community-based, person-centered activities for people who are not employed and not in school.	Research being conducted by staff; not necessary to implement in FY17.
2.2	Collaborate with the Texas DD Network Partners to educate people about and increase the use of alternatives to guardianship.	Executive Summary approved.
3.1	Create a youth leadership training program.	Three proposals approved for negotiation.
3.1	Provide policy fellowships to train at least two people each year.	One Fellow funded in FY17. Plan to repost RFP.
3.1	Develop a plan and timeline to create a sibling network.	Executive Summary approved.
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year (community-based and institutional settings).	Executive Summary for Developmental Disabilities Peer Support Specialists (community-based) approved. Project to provide training to people institutions TBD.
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018. Executive Summary for Local Self-Advocates Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Project to be reviewed May 2017.

Objectives Required to be Implemented Each Year

Objective number	Objective	Status
3.2	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training. (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018.
3.3	Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy network to increase their capacity to pursue their mission. (required objective)	Continue to collaborate with Texas Advocates; Public Policy staff provide support. Additional activities targeted to increase their capacity needed.
3.1	Support the participation of people living in rural areas and people who self-identify as having a racial or ethnic minority background in TCDD leadership and advocacy projects. (required objective)	Priority given to applications proposing to do this. Two Culturally Appropriate Family Supports, Paso del Norte, and Easter Seals will address it. Additional work recommended.
3.4	Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions. (required objective)	Offer stipends to participate in statewide workgroups. May need new project in FY 2018.

Objectives that must be Implemented by Fiscal Year 2021

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.2	Create training and information for people who have developmental disabilities and families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and benefits.	One project in progress; one to be developed (TBD).
1.6	Pilot at least one program to provide community-based person-centered supports for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs.	no data

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.8	Implement at least three projects to address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s).	Two in progress. Outreach and Development RFP ongoing.
1.9	Pilot at least one practice to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are aging and their caregivers.	no data
1.10	Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations that serve the general public to improve how they include and are responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.	
2.2	Collaborate with the DD Network Partners to promote the use of person-centered practices.	no data
2.3	Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers experienced by individuals who are Spanish-speaking.	Possibly a staff activity – issue identified is Special Education Disparities experienced by students with disabilities who are Spanish-speaking.
3.1	Provide financial support for at least four general leadership development and advocacy skills training programs.	Three have started; one additional grantee to be selected. Executive Summary for fourth project to be reviewed in May 2017.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

FY 2017–2021 Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1:

Create and support promising practices that enable people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities and to have control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.

Objective 1.1: Demonstrate at least three models that support people with disabilities to have employment of their choice by 9/31/2018.

- Texas Tech — Project SEARCH
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities/HEART — Enabling Technology (Inventory Tracking System)
- Strategic Education Solutions — Enabling Technology (Web-based virtual job coach application)

Objective 1.2: Implement two programs to provide training and information to people who have developmental disabilities and their families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and health benefits by 1/1/2021.

- National Disability Institute (NDI) — Understanding Employment Options and Supports
- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.3: Develop at least five new programs that demonstrate success at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to be more fully included in post—secondary education by 5/31/2021.

- Texas Tech — Project CASE
- Texas A&M — Bridge to Career in Human Service
- DARS — Project HIRE
- Higher Education Collaborative — Texas A&M
- TBD

Objective 1.4: Pilot at least one new model that provides community—based person—centered activities for people with developmental disabilities who are not employed and not in school by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.5: Demonstrate at least three new models that support individuals with disabilities to improve or maintain their health by 3/31/2018.

- Any Baby Can — Any Body Can
- Epilepsy Foundation — Get FIT Texas
- Statewide Independent Living Council — Getting Fit to Live, Work, and Play

Objective 1.6: Pilot at least one new community-based person-centered practice that ensures that people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs, receive appropriate and timely services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD — not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 1.7: Each year of the plan, provide support to stakeholders to participate in transportation planning activities that increase mobility and availability of accessible transportation.

- Statewide Independent Living Council — Transportation Works

Objective 1.8: Implement at least three projects that address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s) by 9/30/2021.

- Light and Salt Association — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- Outreach and Development (Grantees TBD)

Objective 1.9: Pilot at least one practice that addresses the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging, and their caregivers by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

Objective 1.10: Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations, agencies, groups, or individuals that provide services to the general public to fully include and be responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2021.

- TBD

Goal 2:

Improve and/or expand community — based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities by 9/30/2021.

Objective 2.1: Each year of the plan, promote systems that will sustain the policies and programs that demonstrate success in supporting people with developmental disabilities or families of people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

- Volar Center for Independent Living — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

- Community Healthcore — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Objective 2.2: Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, and Disability Rights Texas) to promote person-centered practices and educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.

- Alternatives to Guardianship training project

Objective 2.3: Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent individuals who are Spanish — speaking from receiving services by 9/30/2021.

- TBD – not necessary to be implemented in Year 1

Objective 2.4: Each year of the plan, advocate for legislative/policy change to improve educational outcomes and remove barriers to full-time or part-time employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- Region 17 Education Service Center — Families in Schools

Goal 3:

Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.

Objective 3.1: Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and allies by 9/30/2021.

- SAFE — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Mounting Horizons — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities — Youth Leadership (not yet started as of 3/31/17)
- Family to Family — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Paso Del Norte Children’s Center — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Easter Seals Central Texas — Leadership Development and Advocacy Training
- Leadership Development and Advocacy Training — Self Advocates (grantee TBD)
- Partners in Policymaking (Johnson Applied Solutions)
- Support for people underserved or unserved — Leadership Development and

Advocacy Training (grantees and activities TBD)

- Sibling Network
- TCDD Policy Fellowships — EveryChild, Inc

Objective 3.2: Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year.

- Texas Advocates — Grassroots Community Organizing
- Self-Advocates as Mentors/Trainers to People in Institutions (grantee(s) TBD)
- Peer Support Specialist (grantee TBD)

Objective 3.3: Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy organization run by people with developmental disabilities to create opportunities to increase their ability to strengthen their organization and pursue their mission by 9/30/2021.

- TBD
- Public Policy activities

Objective 3.4: Support self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions each year.

- Center for Disability Studies — Stipends to support self-advocates and family members on boards and committees

Goal 4:

Ensure there is ongoing support and technical assistance for the Council to identify and engage in issues according to the Council's priorities and mission.

Objective 4.1: Each year of the plan, provide written and/or verbal public policy input on behalf of TCDD regarding issues that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Objective 4.2: Each year of the plan, organize and conduct communications activities to increase connections to organizations and individuals.

Objective 4.3: Each year of the plan, evaluate and/or address opportunities to develop or incorporate new promising practices that would improve TCDD's ability to achieve the Council's mission.

Project Development Committee — Idea Discussion Guide

Questions to be considered when discussing a new project idea:

1. What is the issue or gap in the system that needs to be addressed?
2. What group or groups of people with disabilities would benefit from addressing this issue?
 - A. Consider: Geographic area(s); age(s); disability type(s); race/ethnicity; people who speak different languages; income; education
3. What state plan objective does this address?
4. What public policy priority does this address?
5. How has this issue been addressed to date?
 - A. Previous or current TCDD Grant?
 - B. Effort from other organization or state agency? Who?
 - C. What was the result?
 - D. How have other states addressed this?
6. How would TCDD build on current and/or previous efforts? (Describe specific activities)
 - A. Advocacy — Telling others about issues, needs, and possible solutions.
 - B. Capacity Building — Helping communities and other groups build their resources.
 - C. Systems Change — Changing the way government programs, state agencies, and other organizations do business every day to improve support for people with disabilities.
7. Who is ultimately responsible for this issue in our system long term?
 - A. Individuals with DD, Families, Service Providers, Community organizations, State agencies, leaders/policy makers.
8. What disparity or disproportionalities exist related to this project?
9. Is addressing this issue feasible?

Funding Proposal Executive Summary

Leadership Development and Advocacy Training Project

Background

TCDD includes multiple objectives in its 2017-2021 state plan to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training to support individuals in creating systems change. TCDD received public input prior to the development of the FY 2017 – 21 State Plan suggesting that TCDD award funding to a local self-advocacy group to implement a leadership and advocacy training. TCDD has awarded many similar grants, including to a statewide self-advocacy group. However, very few local self-advocacy groups have received funding to implement a project.

State Plan Goal

Goal 3: Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems and community supports.

Objective 3.1: Support at least nine leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities and allies by 9/30/21.

Three of the four planned Leadership Development and Advocacy projects were awarded funding. The following three organizations were each awarded \$75,000 per year, for up to three years, and are in their first year:

- Easter Seals Central Texas (individuals with developmental disabilities)
- Family to Family (individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and community members)
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center (individuals with developmental disabilities and family members)

Additionally, three Youth Leadership projects have been approved for funding and will begin in the summer of 2017:

- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. (ages 16-22; also employment-related)
- Mounting Horizons (ages 14-22)
- SAFE Alliance (18-22; also incorporates training to develop meaningful relationships)

Additionally, Objective 3.2 supports people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities. TCDD is currently providing funding to Texas Advocates, Texas' statewide self-advocacy organization, to address this objective.

Expected Outcome

One local self-advocacy group will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training for at least 100 people each year, on average, and document that:

- At least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others
- At least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy after the end of the project

Project Description

One project will provide leadership development and advocacy skills training using curriculum approved by TCDD. Project staff will determine the curriculum to be used and how training will be provided. Training must include:

- History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
- Principles of self-determination;
- Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
- Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
- Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

For this project, the applicants are limited to local self-advocacy groups and organizations. Priority will be given to those groups and organizations located in rural and or underserved areas of the State. Training participants may include individuals with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and other interested community members who do not fall into either of these categories. Priority shall be given to support the participation of individuals with developmental disabilities; spouses or partners of individuals with developmental disabilities; and other family members of adults with developmental disabilities. Space permitting, other community members may attend training.

Organizations implementing the training may charge a reasonable fee for training or for Continuing Education Units, but must ensure that any person with a developmental disability and family member of a person with a developmental disability will be able to participate, regardless of ability or inability to pay. TCDD will have final approval of any fee structure and procedure.

All organizations must have procedures in place to obtain contact information (including e-mail addresses) from participants and to inform participants that their contact information will be forwarded to TCDD so that TCDD may provide information related to advocacy opportunities to advocates. Grantees should forward to TCDD names of individuals who are interested in ongoing advocacy, advanced training or serving on a board or committee.

Proposed Funding Amount

Up to \$75,000 for one project, per year, for up to five years. Additional funding may be made available to provide reasonable accommodations to Project Directors or Project Coordinators who have a developmental disability if accommodations are necessary and exceed the amount the organization can afford. Additional funding must be based on level of need and may not exceed \$25,000 per project.

Proposed Duration

Up to five years

Considerations

None

Funding Proposal Executive Summary

Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Project: Impact of Medicaid Services and Supports

Project Goal

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) will collaborate with other DD Network Partners (Disability Rights Texas, University of Texas Center for Disability Studies, and Texas A&M University Center on Disability and Development) to compile personal stories from individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members about the ways in which Medicaid services support them in their daily lives. These stories would be used to inform state policy makers, federal representatives, and the public about how changes to the state Medicaid program would impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Relationship to TCDD FY 2017 – FY2021 State Plan Goals

Goal 2: Improve and/or expand community-based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.

The current Objective 2.2 is: Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, and Disability Rights Texas) to promote person-centered practices and educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.

If the activities recommended in this Executive Summary are approved, the workplan for this Objective in the five-year state plan would be amended.

Background

Medicaid offers critical long term services and supports to individuals with disabilities and their families. Congress and the President have indicated that they would like to change Medicaid to a Block Grant program, and similar discussions have been raised by our Governor and state elected officials during the current Texas Legislative session. Changes to the Medicaid program that alter eligibility or create federal/state Block Grants would fundamentally change how Medicaid works and could negatively impact Texans with disabilities if not addressed appropriately. Many leaders at the state and federal level may not realize that the familiar Texas programs, services, and supports (e.g., Texas Home Living (TxHML), Community Living Assistance and Support (CLASS), and Youth Empowerment Services (YES)) that individuals use to help them live life and stay healthy are funded by Medicaid.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) is gathering stories from individuals across the country about what having Medicaid has meant to them, and they are using them to inform the discussions at the national level. There is evidence that these personal stories and targeted education efforts are improving policy outcomes. Working together, the DD Network partners, working together, could also gather stories to reflect the unique and diverse experiences across Texas.

The purpose of this project is three-fold:

1. To collect stories from individuals with developmental disabilities and their families on the importance of long term services and supports Medicaid provides. These stories would be shared with state level policy makers as they consider changes to the Texas Medicaid program;
2. To assist advocates, self-advocates, and other leaders to better understand the Medicaid program, the proposed policy solutions such as block grants and per-capita caps; and
3. To provide advocacy tools to support individuals and families to actively engage in discussions with policy makers about the complexities of the Medicaid program as changes are considered.

Expected Outcome

Self-advocates, leaders, and state policy makers will increase their understanding of long term services and supports provided through the Medicaid program and its impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families:

- At least 50% of participants in leadership and advocacy training programs will demonstrate perceived improvement in their knowledge and ability to advocate for themselves and others.
- State leaders will improve their understanding of the Medicaid program and how it supports individuals with disabilities and their families.

Proposed Funding Contribution

This project would be a DD Network Partners collaboration, with all four partners significantly involved in the project. The exact cost will be determined when the roles of all collaborators and available resources have been identified. Funding would not exceed \$50,000 for outreach, communication materials, staff time and travel expenses.

Proposed Duration

One year